

Reunification of Korea, the Cherished Desire of the World

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**Reunification of Korea, the Cherished
Desire of the World**

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President Kim Il Sung, great leader of the international communist movement and world revolution



Great leader Kim Jong Il making signature to the
North-South Joint Declaration



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Foreword

In April, 2012, the world progressive people marked the centenary of birth of President Kim Il Sung, great sage of all people.

The Korean people and other progressive people of the world celebrated the significant day as a great auspicious holiday common to humankind. Still fresh in my memory are those unforgettable celebration days.

At that time we formed the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee for Supporting Peaceful Reunification of Korea in Pyongyang in reflection of the unanimous wish of the progressive people for translating into a reality the desire for reunification of Korea of President Kim Il Sung, founding father of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the lodestar of Korea's reunification.

I was honored to work as co-secretary general of the committee.

Five years have passed since then.

In this period I participated in many international events supporting the reunification of Korea. I was proud of myself of having made much effort for Korea's reunification through increased support and solidarity expressed in the publication of statements denouncing the U.S., chief culprit

of Korea's division, and the south Korean authorities' moves against reunification and their nuclear war drills for aggression.

But I have always felt something missing in my work, particularly in recent days. I have long been involved myself in the work for the improvement of the relations between the DPRK and Pakistan and for the issue of Korea's reunification.

What could be the reason?

Maybe it is because there is unforgettable memory about a great man enshrined deep in my mind.

In April, 1982, 35 years ago from now, I was fortunate to visit Pyongyang and be received by President Kim Il Sung for the first time in my life.

I was among a number of visitors from various countries. The President stopped in front of me and patted me on the back, encouraging me to do lots more for the improvement of friendly relations between the DPRK and Pakistan.

I can never forget his kind image on that day.

Whenever I recall it, I refresh my determination to do something helpful to the Korean people, to do something helpful for the divided Korea.

Korea's reunification was the life-long wish of the President and it is also the unanimous wish of the Korean nation and the world progressives. This is also a historical

task that has to be realized without fail.

What can I do to this end?

I thought and thought and finally came to a decision to author a book on the issue of the Korean peninsula, the issue of reunification of Korea that has become the focus of the world today.

The history of division of Korea has lasted over 70 years.

This means that the Korean nation which had preserved its peculiar national identity for 5,000 years as a homogeneous nation has lived seven decades being divided into the north and the south.

This is really a tragedy, in the true sense of words.

No other nation can feel as much as the Korean nation the pain of national division, the nation that has sustained division for more than seven decades.

The tragedy was directly attributable to the 38th parallel. That's why every Korean calls the 38th parallel "grudge-bearing demarcation line" because all the misfortune and pain of the Koreans originated from the demarcation line.

The first thing that came across my mind when I started writing this book was the issue of division of Korea by the 38th parallel.

So I made up my mind to start my book with the story of how the 38th parallel came into existence, leading to

the seven-decade long history of separation of the Korean nation.

My plan was to give description about the solidarity activities conducted by the progressive people of different countries of the world in support of Korea's reunification along with the long history of division of Korea that was forced by outsiders.

The reason is that the movement for supporting Korea's reunification is an international one that has its origin in Korea's division.

In order to have a proper idea about the issue of Korea's reunification, it is necessary to have a clear understanding of how Korea was divided and who was responsible for it.

This book can be a representation of sincere call for lasting peace and stability on the Korean peninsula made by a man who has long been involved in the movement for supporting Korea's reunification.

I hope that people reading this book, reflection of my sincere feelings, would add their voice to the growing call for solidarity with Korea's reunification.

Author

1. Artificial Korea's Division

My homeland Pakistan is situated on 60° - 78° E and 25° - 34° N.

Pakistan has mountainous areas whose height above the sea level is thousands of meters including the Himalayas, the highest mountain in the world, in its northern part.

Each country in the world has its accurate geographical position.

Korea, a country friendly toward Pakistan and a divided nation, is situated on 124° - 131° E and 33° - 43° N.

One can easily see that 38° N cuts across the Korean peninsula. By this parallel Korea has remained divided into the north and the south for more than seven decades.

Once I read a story about 30° N parallel in which mysterious natural phenomena are often witnessed.

It was mentioned in the story that Mississippi River of the U.S., the Nile of Egypt, Yangtze River of China which are world's renowned rivers are all situated along this line.

This parallel also houses the world's highest Peak in Himalayan mountain and the world's deepest trench in the western Pacific, the world's biggest pyramid in Egypt and the secret of the Saharan Desert and, to everyone's wonder, airplane accidents often occur in the air along this parallel.

This is just natural phenomenon witnessed on 30° N but my point is that the division of Korea by 38° N parallel is by no means by a natural cause.

Many countries lie along this parallel. But they are not suffering from division as Korea does.

Then how did the 38° N parallel become a line that divided the Korean peninsula into the north and the south?

In August, 1945 when the Second World War was drawing to its end, the Soviet Army that took part in the anti-Japanese operation stepped up its speedy advance of annihilating the Japanese army in coordinated operation with the Korean People's Revolutionary Army led by President Kim Il Sung.

At that time the U.S. ruling forces were so embarrassed by the developments.

It was because the U.S. army was just around Okinawa 1 000 km away from Korea. If it keeps sitting back with folded arms, it could lose the whole Korean peninsula. This made the U.S. ruling quarters fretful and restless.

Commenting on this, a media of the U.S. wrote that a pressing issue was for the U.S. to do something to prevent the Soviet Army, which was ready to advance southward at a breath and put whole of Korea under its control, from going into action. So it had to draw a line in any place of the peninsula to check it.

At that time there was news from Tokyo which put it that Japan was about to accept surrender demand from the allied nations.

With Japan's surrender imminent, there was a coordination committee meeting involving State Department, Department of the Army and Department of Navy in Washington on August 11, 1945 under the instruction of the then U.S. President Truman.

There the U.S. ruling forces were going to confirm areas to be put under its control.

While the meeting was underway, Deputy Secretary of War urgently summoned two young colonels of the Department of the Army Dean Rusk and Charles Bonesteel, ordering them to get ready in just 30 minutes an overture on a demarcation line dividing operational responsibilities between U.S. army and the Soviet Army.

Rusk later held the post of State secretary at Kennedy and Johnson administrations and Bonesteel was dispatched to south Korea as U.S. forces commander there.

The two young officers entered a room in Army Department, armed with the New York Times carrying an article about the Soviet Army's advance in Korea illustrated with Korean map, a world map, a ruler and a directive, and discussed where to draw a demarcation line.

A draft suggestion was made to draw a line at N 38th

parallel. The demarcation line was drawn in just 30 minutes.

Rusk later spoke at Congressional session that the main reason that they chose the 38th parallel was to include Seoul within the area under the control of U.S.

Based on this line, the coordination committee session finalized a plan to set areas north of the 38th parallel as the operational areas of the Soviet Army and areas south of the 38th parallel as the operational areas of the U.S. forces.

On August 14, the then US President Truman approved this and issued an order to notify this to the allied nations as Order No. 1 of the U.S. forces commander in the Far East.

The U.S. considered the Korean peninsula as an area that should not be put aside and, therefore, in September, 1945, it let its 24th army land in Inchon and put the land south of the 38th parallel under its control.

Since then, the Korean peninsula was divided into the north and the south with the 38th parallel as a demarcation line and this has become a starting point of the history of division of Korea.

Korea's division was neither the will of the Korean nation nor their wish. It was beyond expectation of any Korean. The division was attributable to the interests of big powers and their strategic requirement.

The U.S. President Truman confessed that the U.S. proposed making the 38th parallel the demarcation line in

Korea.

The U.S. is a chief culprit of the division of Korea from all aspects.

The U.S. forces' presence in south Korea brought with it a number of problems on the peninsula.

The territorial land of Korea has been severed and traffic, transportation, telecommunications, economic and cultural exchanges and visits that had been free between the north and the south have all stopped, making the north and the south follow different paths.

In fact, but for the U.S. forces' presence in south Korea, Korea would not have been divided nor there would have cropped up the reunification issue.

The 38th parallel was drawn for meeting the U.S. strategic purpose and its political interests.

To look back on human history, there was a case in which one nation was exterminated by other nation's invasion or sometimes one nation was assimilated to the other.

The Korean nation also suffered from ceaseless foreign invasion during its time-honored history that lasted for thousands of years but at those times it repelled foreign forces in unity, defending the national sovereignty and preserving its purity as a homogeneous nation.

Such a nation has undergone untold pain and misfortune

due to the geographical division caused by the 38th parallel.

All the Koreans irrespective of their class and strata and their residence, i.e. whether they are in the north or in the south, all suffer from the pain of the national division.

As for families and relatives separated into the north and the south, they have lived for decades without knowing whereabouts of their kinsmen in other part of the peninsula.

The June, 2000 Pyongyang summit produced the June 15 north-south joint declaration. It seemed such humanitarian issues as the reunions of separated families and relatives would see a solution after 55 years of division. But due to the moves of the U.S. and the south Korean authorities who were not concerned for Korea's reunification, the evil cycle of mistrust and confrontation has persisted on the peninsula.

This is well known to lots of conscience-minded persons around the world.

The biggest misfortune the Korean nation has faced is the fear and threat it has been exposed due to the constant danger of war prevailing on the peninsula.

This also constitutes a major threat harassing peace and security in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world.

Pursuant to the U.S. and the south Korean authorities' confrontation policy that originated from the division of Korea, large-scale war exercises targeting north Korea has been an annual event in south Korea.

In the past the U.S. and the south Korean authorities staged massive arms buildup under the pretext of “threat of southward invasion” by the north, thus turning the Korean peninsula into the world’s biggest hotspot and hotbed of a nuclear war.

It is imperative to settle the issue of Korea’s reunification at an early date in order to defuse tension and remove the danger of a war on the peninsula.

It is exactly for this reason that President Kim Il Sung acknowledged the reunification issue as a crucial issue on which hinge the destiny of the nation far back over 70 years ago and clarified its nature and essence.

He clarified that reunification is an internal issue of the nation related to the national sovereignty and an issue of putting an end to foreign domination and interference, completely realizing sovereignty of the Korean nation, removing distrust and conflict between the north and the south and achieving national unity.

Taking to his heart more than others the pain of division suffered by the Korean nation, a nation which has lived in one territory as a homogeneous nation for a long time, he set forth a number of programs and proposals for settling the reunification issue independently and peacefully.

Whenever they were made public, the world praised those programs that illuminated the path to be followed

by the movement for Korea's reunification, and conducted worldwide solidarity movement for supporting them.

But the conflict between the north and the south was not defused but was aggravated, instead.

This was due to the U.S. interference and the moves of south Korean authorities pursuant to it. The issue of Korea's reunification is attributable to the U.S. forces' presence in south Korea and the division of the territory by the 38th parallel. This is the word I would like to put across here.

2. Situation on Korean Peninsula Is Rendered Tense

If an element that had been in a stable state as part of one entity was artificially divided, what will happen? Have you ever thought about it?

It will be dissolved by other material to turn into completely different material or be put in an unstable state to undergo strong self-reaction, losing its original nature in the end.

A country cunningly trying to apply this “principle” to the Korean peninsula for meeting its design is the U.S. The Korean peninsula is not the only target.

Just look around world’s dispute-torn areas, notably Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Palestine, Yugoslavia, and Ukraine.

Any country or nation that has been affected by outsiders’ aggression and interference can be subject to tragedy and pain.

The case is same with the division of Korea.

There are ample examples of nations getting divided, getting at odds with each other to fight all kinds of disputes and even a war only if the U.S. tentacles are stretched into them.

Peace and security have never settled on the Korean peninsula since the U.S. presence in south Korea.

The Korean War broke out in the 1950s as a result of the U.S. ambition to turn the peninsula into an advanced base for invasion of Asian continent, and tension and danger of a war have escalated on it due to the war moves of the U.S. and the south Korean authorities in the subsequent period.

In the new century, the U.S. and the south Korean authorities pursuant to it, have staged massive military drills against the DPRK.

This has now rendered the situation so tense that a nuclear war may break out at any moment.

True intention sought by the U.S. is to render the situation tense, keep aggression forces on a permanent basis and create an opportunity for continental aggression.

Let us have a brief look at historical facts proving how the U.S. escalated the situation on the peninsula after its occupation of south Korea.

As was mentioned earlier, together with the end of the Second World War in 1945, the U.S. drew up the 38th parallel for dividing the Korean peninsula into the north and the south.

It advanced its troops southward under the pretext of “disarming” the Imperial Japanese Army.

After its occupation of south Korea, the U.S. stepped

up war preparations.

The U.S. armed the south Korean army with American weapons including a great number of warships and airplanes and held a complete command of it.

It manned south Korean military posts with Americans under the pretext of “military advisory group” and let them take charge of exercise and operational command, and disseminated manuals on principle of use of American weapons among south Korean army.

In January, 1950 the U.S. and the south Korean side concluded a treaty on mutual defence and aid in military field and put the south Korean army under the command of the U.S. Far East Command and at the same time decided to give “military aid” to finally round off the preparations for a war of aggression.

So huge are the number of troops brought into the areas around the Korean peninsula by the U.S. by this “aid” until just before the outbreak of the Korean War.

From the end of April, 1950, the U.S. supplemented the U.S. 7th fleet with two carriers, two cruisers and six destroyers under the plea of conducting joint exercises of the three services and additionally deployed three B-26s, B-29 bombers and six pursuit plane brigades and two transport plane brigades to Japan.

It also reinforced four divisions under the U.S. 8th army

in Japan with tanks, artillery pieces and transport means and other branches of arms, and put them on full combat readiness to be hurled into the Korean front at any moment.

In the meantime, it manipulated armed provocation cases to examine the combat-readiness of the south Korean army and let it nurture actual war capabilities. It also strained the situation, bringing more military aids to south Korea under that pretext.

The U.S. military adviser Dulles, invested with the right to command the Korean War, inspected the areas along the 38th parallel together with the U.S. military advisory group under the pretext of “special envoy” of the then President Truman in June, 1950 and finally examined the plan for the Korean War. This fact well known to the world was a prelude to the Korean War.

The curtain of war was about to be raised on the Korean peninsula.

It was Sunday, June 25, 1950, five years after the division of Korea.

The U.S. provoked the Korean War by instigating the south Korean puppet government in order to seize the Korean peninsula, a strategic vantage point in Northeast Asia.

The Korean War was a stand-off unprecedented in the world history of wars in which the allies made up of

the U.S. that emerged as a boss of the world imperialists with huge military muscle and nuclear hegemony after the Second World War, troops of 15 satellite countries of the West and the south Korean army and remnants of the Imperial Japanese Army stood against young DPRK.

The world closely followed the developments on the Korean peninsula.

A miracle appeared beyond imagination of the international community in the three-year Korean War. The Korean people emerged victorious in the war.

Outstanding strategist President Kim Il Sung led the young army and people to defeat the allied forces of the U.S. and the West which claimed not to have suffered even a single defeat in more than 100 wars of aggression.

It is not hard to guess the defeat suffered by the U.S. in the Korean War through an article carried by the U.S. magazine US News and World Report at that time.

The article said the loss suffered by the American forces was more than double the total loss sustained by Americans in their five big wars, i.e. war of independence, 1812 war, Mexican war, U.S.-Spain war and Philippine war.

The Korean War ended in truce.

Truce is literally a break of war, not lasting peace.

In fact, in the Korean Armistice Agreement both sides predicted to discuss the issue of holding a political meeting

of one level higher within three month after ceasefire, the issue of withdrawing foreign forces from Korea and settling the Korean issue by the efforts of the Koreans themselves.

But the U.S. concocted south Korea-U.S. “mutual defence treaty” which legalized the U.S. forces’ permanent presence in south Korea and disrupted the convention of a Geneva political meeting for discussing the issue of the withdrawal of the foreign forces including the American forces as predicted in the Armistice Agreement.

How was the Geneva political meeting disrupted?

Preliminary talks between the DPRK and the U.S. took place in Panmunjom from Oct. 26, 1953 for the political meeting. Agenda items proposed by the DPRK side at the talks included reasonable and constructive contents covering all issues ranging from the issue of member nations of the political meeting, its venue, timeline, issue of POWs, the issue of withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea to peaceful settlement of the Korean issue and all other issues on agenda item, as well as procedures and preparations for the meeting, proceedings and reporting, and expenses for the meeting.

But the U.S. declined the DPRK’s proposal under various absurd pretexts and unilaterally walked out of the talks, thereby suspending the bilateral preliminary talks for an indefinite period.

However, the U.S. could not but be present at another round of the political meeting by the requirement of the times and under the pressure of the Korean and other world peace-loving people for settling the international disputes that were caused following the ceasefire of the Korean War through negotiations.

The Geneva political meeting for peaceful coordination of the issue of Korea was held in the presence of delegations of various countries including the DPRK, the Soviet Union, China, France, U.S. and Britain on April 26, 1954.

At the meeting the Korean side demanded that the Korean issue should be coordinated in the interests of the Korean and the world peace-loving people and advanced the proposal for entrusting the issue of peacefully reunifying Korea on a democratic basis to the Koreans themselves.

To be specific, the proposal included the issue of pressing for the measures for the earlier withdrawal of the foreign forces, cutting down the number of the armies of the north and the south to keep them under 100 000, forming a committee with representatives from the north and the south to propose the signing of an agreement on defusing tension between the north and the south and the issue of providing international guarantee for the peaceful development of Korea.

But the U.S. indifferent to the peaceful solution of the

Korean issue was not interested in this proposal raised by the DPRK. It did not have any alternative, either.

The then U.S. State Secretary Dulles, who was a chief delegate from the U.S. side, failed to make a speech as scheduled.

The next day he said to the effect that the U.S. forces can not leave south Korea, only Chinese army has to leave north Korea, and only north Korea has to hold a general election as there is a “legitimate” government in south Korea...

As for the proposal made by the Korean side, the representatives of the former Soviet Union and China approved it, representatives of Britain and France kept mum and those of the U.S. and south Korea opposed it.

The representative from the south Korean side who had opposed the DPRK’s proposal made its own “suggestion” on May 22 at the instigation of the U.S.

The keynote of the suggestion was holding “free election in proportion to population under UN inspection” within six months, ensuring free activities of “UN supervision commission” in the front areas before and during the “election”, withdrawing the Chinese People’s Volunteers one month before the election and keeping the UN forces until “unified government” is established and is confirmed by the UN.

It goes without saying that it represented the U.S. will to expand neo-colonialist domination throughout the Korean peninsula using UN, far from settling the issue of Korea's reunification.

Finding it unable to realize their aim at the Geneva meeting, the U.S. read out "16-nation declaration" on June 15 before unilaterally leaving the conference hall.

It was declared in the declaration that further discussion and examination of the Korean issue is of no help to serving useful purposes and the U.S. confirms its support to the UN in seeking its purposes in Korea.

This meant taking the Korean issue to the UN again.

As a result, the Geneva political meeting ended on June 15, 1954 without giving any help to the peaceful settlement of the Korean issue despite it was held amid great concern and expectation of the Koreans and other peace-loving world people.

This proves that the Geneva political meeting was a stand-off between the DPRK side wishing for peaceful solution of the Korean issue and the U.S. side aimed at straining tension on the Korean peninsula.

Commenting on the meeting, the Nov. 21st, 1955 issue of the U.S. publication National Guardian said that the aim was to preserve the Cold War and stand against the solution of the Korean issue, adding the U.S. had no policy in place

for the solution of the Korean issue.

Explicitly, the U.S. needed truce for resuming the war at any moment.

In other words, the U.S. needed constant military tension, not durable peace on the peninsula.

That's why it deliberately disrupted the Geneva political meeting and continued to commit such acts as escalating confrontation between the north and the south.

After the Geneva meeting, Pyongyang kept requesting the replacement of the armistice agreement with a peace treaty for an end to a war and lasting peace but Washington, defying this, massively introduced into south Korea all kinds of new-type weapons, strategic materials and even nuclear weapons in wanton violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement, thus stepping up the preparations for a new war.

It even held large-scale war exercises on an annual basis and cooked up a series of hideous cases, catching interest of the world.

In the 1960s it was behind the Pueblo case, EC-121 large spy plane case and in the 1970s Panmunjom case and in the 1980-1990s DPRK-U.S. nuclear stand-off over the suspicious development of nuclear weapons by north Korea...

There was an aim sought by the U.S. whenever it

cooked up such big cases on the Korean peninsula.

That was the permanent presence of the U.S. forces in south Korea under the pretext of tense prevailing situation on the Korean peninsula.

In other words, as the pretext for its forces' presence in south Korea became less and less assuring, the U.S. deliberately strained the situation on the peninsula in order to establish its domination in the region.

Its calculation was that only when they keep the situation tense, can they keep their forces in south Korea on a permanent basis and realize the strategic purpose of continental aggression.

Let's have a look at the situation on the peninsula after the seizure of ultra high-performance armed spy ship Pueblo belonging to the U.S. navy by the navy of the Korean People's Army on Jan. 23, 1968.

The spy ship was in the middle of conducting espionage acts in the East Sea of Korea.

The Pueblo seized by the KPA nearly half a century ago is being exhibited as a war trophy on the bank of the River Pothong.

During my visit to the DPRK I looked round the ship several times.

All the equipment on the ship were said to be ultra-modern spy equipment, most precise and modern at that

time, used for the purpose of spotting locations of military bases of other countries and using radar against them.

The lecturer of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum who was a navy soldier of the KPA at the time of capture of the spy ship said that marked on the map carried by the crewmen of the spy ship were locations of the KPA military bases and that the daily record book of the ship read that it left Sasebo Port, Japan in Dec. 1967 by the order of the superior and made several inroads into the territorial waters of Korea to carry out espionage acts.

This proves that Pueblo was a spy ship dispatched by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

That's why it is clear that the seizure of Pueblo becomes the just and deserved exercise of the sovereignty of the DPRK.

However, the U.S., as if they had waited for the opportunity to happen, faulted, saying that Pueblo was captured in the open sea and it was not involved in espionage act, and threatened the DPRK by force in the end.

The then U.S. President Johnson held a state security meeting on Jan. 24 and 25, right after the seizure of the ship and decided to take "military retaliatory measure" against the DPRK.

The U.S. accordingly sent three carriers including 70 000-tonnage nuclear carrier Enterprise and 25 other

warships with various missions to the East Sea of Korea and concentrated more than 300 military planes in their base in Japan, increased the number of B-52 strategic bombers stationed in the East to 72 and moved two battalions of jet fighters and lots of naval warships to south Korea from Okinawa.

One can imagine how tense the situation was in the area around the Korean peninsula at that time as huge forces enough to fight a war were hurled into it.

After massing huge aggression troops in and around the Korean peninsula, the U.S. began to put military pressure on the DPRK. It even openly threatened that it would use nuclear weapons unless the DPRK returns Pueblo.

This rendered the situation on the peninsula so tense as to the state where the second Korean War, a nuclear war could break out any moment on it.

The attention of the world was focused on the peninsula again.

What is strange is that Pueblo which had not been detected in any waters of other countries was captured by the KPA navy in the East Sea of Korea, waters of the DPRK side.

There was some speculation that it could be a planned farce cooked up by the U.S. to strain the situation.

There was wide-ranging analysis of it in the world.

The world people expressed uneasiness and suspicion as to whether the DPRK could stand the high-intensity military pressure put by the U.S.

It was under such situation that President Kim Il Sung said on Feb. 8, 1968

“We do not want war, but we are not afraid of it. Our people and People’s Army will retaliate for the “retaliation’ of the US. imperialists, return all-out war for all-out war. The U.S. imperialists must surely be aware that, if they aggravate the situation and take the road of war despite our warnings, they will suffer an even heavier defeat next time.”

Leader Kim Jong Il, young general in his 20s at that time, clarified his determination to humble the arrogant U.S. and wrest surrender from it.

He said we have to teach the American warmongers the lesson. We have to humble its arrogant stand of looking down upon a small country. The American Yankees sneaked into our country, while making big bluffing, but they can return only after they acknowledge their spy act and present a surrender document to the Korean people and the world people. They could come at their will but when going back it would not be the same, he added.

In response to the steadfast will expressed by the President and the Leader, the Korean people turned out in

the sacred battle of justice for defending the homeland from the U.S. and its vassal forces just as they did during the Korean War.

Just as during the Korean War, the stand-off between the U.S. and the DPRK became acute.

On Dec. 23, 1968, the U.S. wrote a letter of apology before the world and this brought the case to a conclusion.

There was a wide international opinion on this. They put it that U.S. presented an apology though it wanted an apology from the DPRK, and called the U.S. a paper tiger.

Afterwards, the U.S. pushed the situation to the brink of a war, after introducing huge arms and equipment to areas round the Korean peninsula. It could not just keep its arms crossed after presenting the letter of apology.

Within half a year, EC-121 belonging to the U.S. air force which was in the middle of conducting espionage in the territorial air of the DPRK was shot down by pilots of the KPA in April, 1969.

Nixon, who had briefly been in presidential office at that time, hurled two carriers including 82 000-tonnage Kitty Hawk, cruisers and destroyers, more than 20 warships in all to the East Sea of Korea.

250 U.S. forces' planes based in south Korea were ordered to be combat-ready and U.S. forces planes based in Japan made emergency sorties and three carriers in waters

off Vietnam were also ordered to be on alert.

The south Korean army was placed at top combat posture.

The U.S. blustered mounting “nuclear retaliation” against the DPRK and turning into ashes the air force base of those KPA airplanes which brought down EC-121.

A touch-and-go situation was created again on the peninsula.

This was just a typical example.

The situation on the peninsula remained tense in the 1970s in the wake of the 1960s.

The military provocations of the U.S. and the south Korean army against the DPRK continued in the areas along the 38th parallel during those days.

It was on August 18, 1976.

There happened in the joint security area in Panmunjom an incident in which American guards who went on the rampage to cut down a poplar tree inside the portion under the control of the DPRK side without advance notice were deterred by KPA guards which led to a free-for-all fight and resulted in the deaths of two American officers. (This became the starting point of ‘Panmunjom case’ which is called “August 18 case” or “axe case”)

The footage covering the incident was opened to broad public worldwide at that time as the American side videoed

it from the beginning to the end.

The case could be called a self-orchestrated farce of the then U.S. President Ford who sought stay in power with the presidential election due in November that year as an occasion.

After cooking up the “Panmunjom case”, Ford was going to ignite a Korean War with the case as a pretext.

Ford hurled into waters off the Korean peninsula a mobile fleet made up of cruisers and frigates with carrier Midway as a prototype one, more than 1 800 marines from Okinawa and F-4, F-111 combat bombers and B-52 strategic bombers.

In August, 1976, the confrontation between the DPRK and the U.S. seriously mounted higher, but the case was brought to an end by the U.S. acceptance of the DPRK’s proposal made on its own initiative to change the work order within the joint security area in Panmunjom.

The Panmunjom case was proved before the world to be a deliberate provocation by the U.S. aimed at rendering the situation tense.

Below is an interesting story told by Korean friends with respect to the incident.

The U.S. videoed the case to use it for slandering the DPRK in the future and the footage was broadcasted widely all over the world.

Soon after the video was aired, a story was widely afloat that soldiers of the Korean People's Army have strong power of knocking down enemies with bare fists.

A reporters' group of the DPRK visited a country in the Mideast at that time.

A story that north Koreans have sledgehammer fists got abroad among people of that country who had watched the footage of the free-for-all in Panmunjom on TV with keen interest.

Holding hands of journalists, people of that country marveled as if those hands were just the sledgehammer fists that beat down American soldiers in Panmunjom. They did not spare their compliments.

All this shows that the situation on the Korean peninsula has constantly been a cycle of tension and confrontation, not stability.

Toward the end of the 20th century, the world felt in its bones the dark clouds of a nuclear war hanging heavily over the Korean peninsula.

In early 1989-1990 period the world witnessed the shocking incident of the end of the Cold War with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

When the world was still caught in the trail of the shock, the U.S. was in a hurry to make preparations for the next-phase operation.

That was “suspicious development of nuclear weapons” of north Korea which the U.S. raised under the pretext to justify its military actions in Korea. It was an American style “brainchild”.

The U.S. government and the high-ranking authorities of the military became vocal about “suspicion of nuclear development by north Korea” here and there. They said that “north Korea constitutes a big threat to the free world”, touching off the suspicion of the international community that the manufacture of the nuclear weapons was under way in the DPRK.

At the beck and call of the U.S., lots of world propaganda means vociferated about “nuclear suspicion” of the DPRK and termed it “dangerous state” even though it is a victim exposed to the U.S. threat of aggression.

The U.S. loudly built up the public opinion over “suspicious development of nuclear weapons” by the DPRK. But this suspicion has never been proved by anyone even once.

What was the real aim sought by the U.S. in making this propaganda in such a dogged way even though it was aware of it.

The intention was to put pressure on the DPRK with the “suspicious development of nuclear weapons” as a pretext, and isolate the country and keep its aggression

troops stationed on the Korean peninsula while straining situation and thus bring down the socialist system in Korea in the end.

They did not just worry about the existence of nuclear weapons in north Korea. What was essential for the U.S. ruling quarters was to attack socialist Korea and they needed an excuse for justifying provocation of a war.

The “nuclear issue” raised by the U.S. ruling quarters was, in essence, a product of their DPRK policy for removing Korea, socialist fortress, and for perpetuating division of Korea.

Herein lies the essence and purpose of the farce over “suspicious development of nuclear weapons”.

Following the collapse of socialism in the former Soviet Union and the Eastern Europe, the U.S. directed the spear of its attack on the DPRK, saying that north Korea is next.

It has expanded threat of military attack in a phased manner.

The U.S. and its vassal forces imposed “special inspection” on false charges that Pyongyang did not follow on its obligations to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and threatened it with “collective sanctions”.

It even trumpeted about mounting surprise attack on the nuclear facilities of the DPRK from the air.

The then boss of the U.S. strategic command at that

time confessed that the U.S. strategic nuclear weapons which had taken their aims at the Soviet Union changed their aim to north Korea.

With the involvement of nuclear attack means and 200 000-strong huge troops the U.S. staged provocative Team Spirit nuclear war drill against the DPRK in and around the Korean peninsula.

The danger of a nuclear war loomed up over Korea with each passing moment.

The U.S. nuclear blackmail and war adventure put the sovereignty of the Korean nation and the supreme interests of the nation at a great peril.

At that time, Kim Jong Il, the then supreme commander of the KPA, declared a semi-war state across the country and took a resolute measure of withdrawing from the NPT.

This dealt a heavy blow at the NPT system, a playing card of the U.S. in executing its world domination strategy. This made a sudden turn in the table in favor of the DPRK.

The U.S. could not but come out to the talks with the DPRK with a hope of making Pyongyang return to the NPT come what may.

This resulted in the first government-level talks between the DPRK and the U.S. government in four decades after the Korean Armistice Agreement.

The high-ranking talks between the DPRK and the U.S.

that began in June, 1993 lasted for a year and a half and they culminated in the signing in the DPRK-U.S. Agreed Framework on the complete solution of a nuclear issue by the U.S. on October 21, 1994.

The Agreed Framework helped get fundamental and comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and defuse hostile relations between the DPRK and the U.S., thus creating unprecedented atmosphere of bringing détente and peace to the peninsula and opening up a phase favorable for reunifying the country.

After the publication of the DPRK-U.S. Agreed Framework, the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea, commented it as the result of the just struggle of the Korean people under the unanimous support and encouragement by the world progressive and peace-loving forces, and a firm victory won by the DPRK's consistent and above-board policy for independence, peace and reunification by which it foiled every U.S. strong-arm strategy and policy of threatening, isolating and stifling the DPRK.

In the subsequent period, the U.S. kept pushing the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of a war, quite contrary to the principled requirement of the party and government of the DPRK for peacefully settling the issue of Korea's reunification and the movement of broad

international solidarity organizations urging the sincere and complete implementation of the Agreed Framework.

Even in recent days the U.S. staged lots of war exercises together with the south Korean army with an aim to keep the situation on the Korean peninsula tense and has resorted to all sorts of machinations to shift the blame for the escalating situation on to the DPRK side.

In 2016 after the DPRK succeeded in the test of an H-bomb and launch of earth satellite Kwangmyongsong-4, the U.S. used them as an excuse for expanding to the maximum scale its war moves and sanctions racket against the DPRK.

Faulting the DPRK over “provocation” and “threat”, Washington tried to turn white to black, giving impression that the situation on the peninsula was rendered tense and peace in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world was exposed to serious threat because of north Korea.

It is a fact acknowledged by the world that it was entirely due to the U.S. that the DPRK was made to have access to nuclear weapons and was compelled to opt for a preemptive attack as a mode of its counteraction today.

The U.S. nuclear threat to the DPRK was not just a momentary phenomenon that began recently but it is a substantial threat with long history which the U.S. has posed almost everyday for scores of years after adopting

it as its policy to mount a preemptive strike at the DPRK.

The U.S. already planned a nuclear attack on Korea far back in the 1950s.

In early 21st century, the Bush administration officially designated north Korea, a non-nuclear state, as part of the “axis of evil” and target of a preemptive nuclear attack.

In April, 2010, the Obama administration openly disclosed its attempt at a preemptive attack on the DPRK by the use of nuclear weapons. It annually staged large-scale joint military drills and has kept making preparations for a nuclear attack targeting north Korea with the involvement of nuclear war means of various kinds.

Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 16 which the U.S. held in 2016 were said to be unprecedented in scale.

The U.S. waged exercises simulating an actual war with an aim at “regime change” in the DPRK with the involvement of more than 300 000-strong troops, B-52 nuclear strategic bombers, nuclear submarine and nuclear carrier task force.

They even staged exercises targeting the supreme headquarters of the DPRK.

This turned the peninsula into a hotbed of a nuclear war and the world’s biggest hotspot.

In the meantime, the U.S. has escalated the moves to put extreme political and economic pressure on the DPRK.

At the UN, it manipulated a “resolution” on slapping unprecedentedly harsh sanctions on the DPRK.

As was mentioned above, the U.S. nuclear threat and blackmail, sanctions moves and joint military exercises have been a root cause which pushed the situation on the peninsula to the brink of a nuclear war.

In this regard the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK made public a statement on March 31, 2016.

The statement clarified the strong stand of the DPRK to mount merciless punishment with the use of all possible means including the nuclear force in case the U.S. tries to encroach even a bit on the supreme interests and sovereignty of the country and to remove the fundamental threat to the nation’s sovereignty and regional peace and security.

Korean peninsula has thus remained an area characterized by the highest escalation of tension and the biggest danger of the outbreak of a nuclear war.

From long ago this situation has posed constant threat to the peace and security in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world.

That’s why it presents itself as a pressing task not only for the Korean nation but other world peace-loving people to peacefully settle the issue of Korea’s reunification and defend security on the Korean peninsula and the region.

I believe that the most scientific and reasonable way

of carrying it out is to implement the great program for reunification advanced by President Kim Il Sung and Leader Kim Jong Il.

3. Reunification Programme Is Supported by World

In Thongil (Reunification) Street in the capital city of Pyongyang of the DPRK, there is a tower in commemoration of the three charters for Korea's reunification proposed by President Kim Il Sung.

Reflected in this tower is the ardent desire of the Korean people to reunify the country at any cost guided by the reunification proposal set forth by the President.

During my several visits to the DPRK, I toured the meaningful tower and took part in events for support and solidarity for Korea's reunification that were held there.

Peculiar in this tower is the two women holding up a mark symbolizing the three charters with their hands just as if they hug each other.

The two women in traditional national costume of Korea are holding up the mark on which the Korean map is engraved, a specific feature peculiar to the Korean nation. This shows the firm will and strong desire of all the Koreans to open up a door to reunification under the banner of the three charters for Korea's reunification.

The three charters for Korea's reunification comprise the three principles of Korea's reunification, the proposal

for founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo and the ten-point program for the great national unity for Korea's reunification.

Running through these charters are the three principles of Korea's reunification -- the idea of independence, peaceful reunification and the great national unity.

President Kim Il Sung clarified the three principles of national reunification at talks with delegates from the south side to the high-level political talks between the north and the south in May, 1972.

The President said:

“I believe that our reunification question should on all accounts be settled independently without foreign interference and peacefully on the principle of promoting great national unity”.

Let's have a closer look at the three principles of Korea's reunification:

1. National reunification should be achieved independently without reliance on outside forces and free from their interference.

2. National reunification should be achieved by peaceful means without resorting to arms.

3. Great national unity should be promoted by transcending the differences in ideas, ideals and systems.

The three principles of Korea's reunification serve as a reunification program common to the Korean nation no matter how the situation may change in the future.

It is because it enshrines fundamental stand and ways for all the Koreans in the north and the south and abroad who are responsible for Korea's reunification to settle the reunification issue by their concerned efforts in the interests of the Korean nation itself.

Here the principle of independence is a core in settling the issue of Korea's reunification.

As was mentioned earlier, Korea was divided by outsiders and it is none other than outsiders who fish in the troubled waters.

This proves that outsiders can never bring reunification to the Korean people.

This is proven by the tragic 70-year long history of division of the Korean nation.

In the course of conducting solidarity activities for supporting Korea's reunification, I read lots of works of the President dealing with the issue of reunification of Korea.

What is essential in those books is that the issue of Korea's reunification is an internal issue of the Korean nation to which no interference by any foreign forces is allowable, and that this issue has to be solved by the Koreans themselves.

In short, the principle of independence is a fundamental principle in settling the issue.

Also important is the principle of peacefully reunifying the country without resorting to arms.

Peace is a universal desire of humankind and it is what is unanimously desired by not only the Korean nation but the Pakistani people also.

Moreover, whether it reunifies the country by a way of war or by a peaceful way is an issue related to the rise or fall of the Korean nation.

A war among the nation will bring loss to it only while giving profits to outsiders. This is a self-evident logic.

That's why the principle of peaceful reunification also becomes one of the most just and aboveboard reunification proposal reflecting the requirement and interests of the Korean nation.

The principle of promoting the great national unity irrespective of differing ideology, idea and social system accurately reflects the essential nature of the reunification issue and the specific conditions of Korea.

The Korean nation is an advantageous one with one language, culture and time-honored history and tradition.

All the Koreans unanimously wish for reunification while the outsiders and its vassal forces pursue Korea's division.

That's why, far back in the 1970s President Kim Il Sung, giving answers to questions raised by journalists from various countries of the world said that in order to realize the great national unity, we do not have to ask about the past but maintain the principle of respecting and trusting each other.

Korean friends, when talking about the issue of Korea's reunification, used to say that when the entire Korean nation gets reconciled and united, that is precisely the national reunification.

This carries simple yet significant meaning.

The three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and the great national unity commanded active support and approval and evoked great repercussion of the world soon after its emergence for it most correctly reflected the situation of the north and the south.

The three principles of national reunification are the idea which runs through all other reunification programs set forth by the President in the subsequent period, also.

The 6th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea was held in the DPRK in October, 1980 amid the great concern of the world. President Kim Il Sung in the report identified the unique proposal for founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo (DFRK).

The gist is as follows:

The DFRK should be a neutral country which does not join any political-military alliance or block. Since the two parts of the country, north and south, with different ideas and social systems are to be united to form a single federal state, it is necessary and most reasonable for the DFRK to be a neutral state.

First, the DFRK should adhere to Chajusong in all state activities and pursue an independent policy.

The DFRK should be a fully independent and sovereign state and a non-aligned nation which is not a satellite of any other nation and does not depend on any foreign forces.

The DFRK should oppose all forms of foreign interference and dependence on foreign forces, exercise complete sovereignty in its internal and external activities and settle all questions arising in state politics independently in keeping with the fundamental interests of the Korean nation and the actual situation in our country.

Second, the DFRK should effect democracy throughout the country and in all areas of society and promote great national unity.

The federal state should guarantee freedom to form political parties and social organizations and their freedom of actions, freedom of religious belief, speech, the press, assembly and demonstration, and guarantee the rights of the people in north and south to travel freely across the country

and to conduct political, economic and cultural activities freely in any area.

The federal government should pursue a fair policy which will guarantee equality between the interests of the two regions, two systems, different parties, groups, classes and circles in the country without bias toward either side. All the policies pursued by the federal government should proceed from the principle of great national unity and contribute to the uniform development and prosperity of the country through the strengthening of national unity and cooperation.

Third, the DFRK should effect economic cooperation and exchange between north and south and ensure the development of an independent national economy.

The federal state should ensure that the north and the south jointly develop and exploit mineral, marine and other natural resources, and further the division of labor and promote trade extensively on the principles of cooperation and mutual accommodation, while coordinating the economic activities of all production units and enterprises in keeping with the interests of the various classes and circles.

The federal state should, through extensive cooperation and exchange between the two parts of the country, develop the economies of the north and south to make them an

organically interlinked independent national economy.

Fourth, the DFRK should realize north-south exchange and cooperation in the spheres of science, culture and education and ensure the uniform progress of the country's science and technology, national culture and arts, and national education.

The federal state should ensure that scientists and technicians in the north and south undertake scientific research jointly and exchange their experience and achievements on a wide scale so that science and technology in our country develop rapidly.

Fifth, the DFRK should reopen transport and communications links between the north and south and ensure the free use of the means of transport and communications all across the country.

The federal state should restore the railways and roads linking the north and the south and open shipping and air routes to ensure free travel by land, sea and air between the two halves of the country. In addition, steps should be taken to open telegraph and telephone services as well as an unrestricted postal service covering all areas of the north and the south.

Sixth, the DFRK should ensure a stable livelihood for the people including the workers, peasants and other working masses and promote their welfare systematically.

The federal state should provide work for all able-bodied people, ensure adequate conditions for work and rest and introduce a wage system, a price policy and an equitable tax system so as to guarantee a stable livelihood for the working people.

The federal state should pay close attention to the education of the working people and the improvement of health services for them and adopt adequate measures to this end, so that all working people and their families can receive an education and medical treatment.

Seventh, the DFRK should remove the state of military confrontation between the north and south and form a combined national army to defend the nation against invasion.

The federal state should reduce the military strength of the two sides to 100,000-150,000 men each in order to end the state of military confrontation between north and south and bring fratricidal strife to an end once and for all. At the same time, it is essential to abolish the Military Demarcation Line between north and south, dismantle all military installations in its vicinity, dissolve militia organizations in both halves of the country and prohibit the military training of civilians.

Eight, the DFRK should defend and protect the national rights and interests of all overseas Koreans.

The DFRK should make vigorous efforts to enable all Korean national living abroad to enjoy their internationally accepted legal rights and liberties, and give them strong support and encouragement in their struggle for democratic national rights.

The federal government should guarantee the rights of all our overseas compatriots to travel freely to their motherland and to return home and live and act freely at a place of residence of their choice.

Ninth, The DFRK should deal properly with the foreign relations established by the north and the south prior to reunification, and should coordinate the foreign activities of the two regional governments in a unified manner.

The DFRK should repeal all the treaties and agreements with other countries that are detrimental to national unity, including military treaties concluded separately by north and south prior to reunification.

The federal state should permit the north and the south to cooperate economically with other countries irrespective of the social system of the country involved.

The DFRK should permit the government of the two halves of the country to establish bilateral relations with other countries.

The federal state will have to coordinate the foreign relations of the north and the south properly to make sure

that the two regional governments act consistently with each other in their foreign activities.

Tenth, The DFRK should, as a unified state representing the whole nation, develop friendly relations with all the countries of the world and pursue a peaceful foreign policy.

The DFRK should adhere to the line of neutrality, follow the policy of non-alignment and develop friendly relations with all nations on the principles of Chajusong, noninterference in internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence.

The DFRK should be a peace-loving nation and pursue a peaceful foreign policy, A unified Korea will not threaten aggression against the countries neighboring ours or any other nations of the world and will not be a party to or cooperate in any international act of aggression. The federal state should make the Korean peninsula a permanent peace zone and nuclear-free zone.

Soon after the publication of the proposal for founding the DFRK, not only Korean people but solidarity organizations and progressive figures of various countries supporting Korea's reunification actively backed it as the one enabling the most realistic and fastest settlement of the reunification issue of Korea.

Before the publication of the proposal, the international community regarded it as an issue whose solution is

indistinct and distant, as it is so complicated and intricate.

The proposal for founding the DFRK raised by the President was clearly understood as something granted for every one.

In other words, Korea's reunification should be settled by way of a federal formula and this will be brought into a reality in the near future.

In fact, the federal formula is the one most suitable to the situation of Korea.

There exist two different social systems and two governments in the north and the south. No side is going to concede theirs to the other.

Under such situation, reunification by one social system can hardly be expected. Such an attempt will foster mistrust and confrontation and furthermore, conflict and even disaster, not helping achieve reconciliation and unity between the north and the south.

This is also very dangerous to world peace. It is a truth proven by the complicated modern history of the Korean nation that Korea can not be reunified by way of one side swallowing up the other, whether it is by war or by a peaceful way.

There is a decisive factor by which the north and the south can tolerate two differing social systems and reunify the country.

That is the homogeneity of the Korean nation as it has lived with the same blood in one and the same territory through its time-honored history spanning 5,000 years.

It is for this reason that the Korean nation has a particularly strong national identity.

More than seven decades have passed since the nation was divided into the north and the south by outsiders in the mid 20th century but its homogeneity as one and the same nation remains strong and the Korean nationals crave for reunification whether they are in the north, in the south or abroad.

Based on this national commonality, the two systems and two governments in the north and the south can co-exist within one nation and one state without much difficulty.

It is for this reason that the proposal for founding the DFRK can be called the most realistic and rational way of achieving reunification.

Comprehensively reflected in this proposal are all issues arising in the foundation and operation of the reunified state ranging from the issue of putting the requirements and interests common to the nation above all, the principle of forming the federal state and ways for it, duty of reunified government and regional governments and relations between them, function and character of federal state and the name of the state.

According to the proposal, the reunified government would provide guidance to two regional governments in the north and the south, discuss and decide on issues on politics, defense and diplomacy and push forward the work for the unified development of the country and the nation.

The regional governments will be obliged to enforce independent politics in the fundamental interests of the whole nation and to lessen the differences between the north and the south and to work hard for the unified development of the nation.

The federal state will grant more authorities to regional autonomous governments for the time being, and gradually achieve the reunification by a federal formula in the direction of furthering the function of the central government.

The nature of external activities to be conducted by reunified state can also be called rational.

The reunified state is specified as a neutral state in the proposal. This will help create new stable elements undeniable in Northeast Asia in which the relations of big powers are particularly intertwined.

It goes without saying that this is a requisite to the global peace and progress.

But the U.S. and other anti-reunification forces seeking permanent division of Korea have kept throwing an obstacle in the way of realizing the DFRK proposal, the

most reasonable way of solving the reunification issue of Korea, thereby rendering the situation on the peninsula extremely tense.

On April 6, 1993, President Kim Il Sung convened the 5th session of the 9th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and set forth again a reunification proposal calling for achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea by the efforts of the driving force of the Korean nation.

At that time the dark clouds of a nuclear war hung heavily over the peninsula and the Korean nation's reunification cause faced another serious obstacle due to the outsiders' aggression and interference moves.

With the collapse of socialism in the East European countries, the Cold War system between the East and the West came to an end.

Availing themselves of this opportunity the U.S. and other West viciously conducted open armed interference and put brigandish political and economic pressure on countries advancing toward independence in different parts of the world under the signboard of "new world order".

The U.S. directed the spearhead of aggression and interference to the Korean peninsula in order to check the DPRK from dynamically advancing along the path of socialism under the uplifted banner of Juche. It was due to

the U.S. and a handful of traitorous forces in south Korea pursuant to the U.S. that the north-south relations were put into a stalemate and all the movement for détente and peace came to a halt though they were making progress based on excellent agreement between two Koreas.

Such situation was a grave difficulty in settling the issue of Korea's reunification.

It was against this backdrop that the ten-point programme for the great national unity for the reunification of Korea was made public, providing a way common to the nation in settling the reunification issue by its own efforts and in opening a way-out of the nation by dint of the great national unity.

The ten-point programme for the great national unity for Korea's reunification is as follows:

1. A reunified state, independent, peaceful and neutral, should be built by dint of the great unity of the entire nation.
2. The nation has to get united based on patriotism and in the spirit of national independence.
3. It is necessary to promote co-existence, co-prosperity and common interests and achieve unity on the principle of subordinating everything to the cause of the country's reunification.
4. All political disputes that foster division and confrontation between the fellow countrymen should be

stopped and unity be achieved.

5. The north and the south should clear themselves of the fear of northward invasion and southward invasion, and the ideas of “unification by prevailing over communism” and “unification through communization” but trust and get united with each other.

6. It is important to value democracy, not to reject each other because of difference of idea and ism but join hands in the road for national reunification.

7. We have to protect material and spiritual wealth possessed by individuals and organizations and to encourage their use to be beneficial to promoting the great national unity.

8. The entire nation has to understand, trust and get united with each other through contacts, visits and dialogue.

9. The entire nation in the north, south and abroad has to strengthen solidarity in the road for national reunification.

10. Those who rendered devoted services for the great national unity and the cause of the country’s reunification should be highly evaluated.

This programme clearly indicates the general goal of the great national unity, the base of the idea, principles and concrete ways of realizing it and also reflects the idea of the all-embracing politics of the President.

The ten-point programme served as a great political event that opened up a phase of an epochal turn in settling the reunification issue of Korea and as a landmark in the history of the Korean nation for achieving reunification.

So far I referred to the reunification programmes common to the nation which would enable to settle the issue of Korea's reunification in a fundamental way.

The great President Kim Il Sung, great lodestar for Korea's reunification, suddenly passed away in 1994.

This could not but be a great loss to the solidarity organizations active in various countries as well as progressive personages working hard to support and encourage Korea's reunification cause, to say nothing of Koreans.

The imperialist allied forces led by the U.S. worked hard to eliminate socialist Korea through the moves for isolating and stifling it and for provoking a new war and the south Korean authorities viciously fanned up confrontation between the north and the south.

Leader Kim Jong Il, another great man who successfully carried forward the President's ideas and cause of Korea's reunification, led the Korean nation along the road of realizing reunification, weathering grave difficulties and hardships that were lying before the Korean nation.

Kim Jong Il made public historic work "Let Us Carry

Out the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung's Instructions For National Reunification" on August 4, 1997.

There he formulated the three principles of national reunification, the ten-point programme for the great national unit and the proposal for founding the DFRK as the three charters for Korea's reunification which systematized in an integral way and completely dealt with the fundamental principles and ways of Korea's reunification based on the great Juche idea and valuable experiences gained in the course of struggling for Korea's reunification.

The spirit of national independence which regards the nation's sovereignty and dignity as a lifeline runs through the three charters for Korea's reunification and the charters reflect the noble patriotism to peacefully reunify the country by achieving reconciliation between the north and the south and the great national unity.

The three charters also clarify the most fair and aboveboard and rational ways of reunifying the country as befitting the specific conditions prevailing on the Korean peninsula where differing ideologies and systems have existed for a long time, and as wished by all Koreans.

It is for this reason that the three charters commanded great support and sympathy not only by Koreans but the progressives the world over, and worldwide solidarity activities for supporting the great charters and settling the

reunification issue as early as possible followed in different parts of the world.

A typical example is events of international solidarity organizations which are always held before the monument to three charters for Korea's reunification in Pyongyang.

The events clearly reflected the will of world solidarity organizations and progressive figures to support the Koreans' ardent wish for reunification and their efforts.

After the world entered the 2000s, the situation around the peninsula turned favorable for the relations between the north and the south and for solving the reunification issue.

The historic north-south summit between Leader Kim Jong Il of the DPRK and the south Korean chief executive (President Kim Dae Jung) was held in Pyongyang from June 13 to 15, 2000 for the first time in 55 years since Korea's division.

At the summit on June 14, views were exchanged on a series of issues arising in achieving reconciliation, unity, exchange and cooperation and achieving peace and reunification between the north and the south.

A five-point north-south joint declaration was made public on June 15.

1. The north and the south agreed to solve independently the issue of reunification of the country by pooling efforts of the Koreans who are responsible for the issue.

2. The north and the south acknowledge that the north-proposed low-level federation and the south-proposed confederation have commonality and agreed to advance toward reunification in this direction in the future.
3. The north and the south agreed to exchange visiting groups of separated families and relatives on the occasion of August 15 this year and find an earlier settlement of such humanitarian issues as the issue of unconverted long-term prisoners.
4. The north and the south agreed to develop the nation's economy in a balanced way through economic cooperation, vitalize cooperation and exchange in all fields including society, culture, sports, public health and environment and thus build mutual confidence.
5. The north and the south agreed to resume talks between the authorities at earliest possible date to put into practice these items of agreement.

As seen above, the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration has the idea of “By our nation itself” as its core.

This idea has remained as an invariable banner for the cause of Korea's reunification although 17 years have passed since then.

It is because this idea reflects the spirit of national independence.

It is a well-known fact that Korea's division was not caused by internal contradiction but was forced by outsiders.

After its occupation of south Korea in the wake of the second World War, the U.S. has steadily strengthened its military domination over south Korea out of its hegemonic ambition to put whole of Korea and the Asian continent under its control.

Outwardly, it tried to give impression that it is interested in the reunification issue, but in fact, it obstructed the reunification movement in every way as it was not desirous of the north and the south getting reconciled and working toward reunification in unity.

It is for this reason that grave difficulties continued to be laid in the way ahead Korea's reunification, and the Korean nation still undergoes the tragedy of division.

The history of division of the Korean nation that has lasted for more than seven decades clearly proves that unless an end is put to the domination and interference by outsiders, the Korean nation can never realize its independent development and reunification.

Korea's reunification is an issue which has to be settled by the efforts of the Koreans themselves who are responsible for it to meet their own wish and requirement.

In other words, this issue is the one pertaining to the nation's right to self-determination.

Outsiders have no reason and qualifications whatsoever to meddle in it. So came out the motto “By our nation itself”.

The idea of “By our nation itself” reflective of the spirit of national independence is the most rational and just one in the light of the situation of the Korean peninsula which was divided by the outsiders and also in the light of the essence of the issue of Korea’s reunification, i.e. re-linking the severed blood vessel of the nation.

The Korean nation is eager to end the fierce military stand-off between the north and the south that has lasted scores of years, and to see peace and reunification.

But the south Korean authorities had them actively involved in the U.S. persistent policy for stifling the DPRK and putting military pressure on it, making military standoff and tension constant things on the peninsula, far from bringing peace and security.

Peace and security on the Korean peninsula precisely mean peace and security of the world.

An outbreak of another war on the peninsula will, without doubt, spill over into a thermonuclear war the humankind has not experienced. It will naturally expand to the vast regions of the world, not just being confined to Northeast Asia, bringing unspeakable loss and disaster to humankind.

The June 15 North-South Joint Declaration is a

declaration of national independence by which the Korean nation clarified that national cooperation is the only way of existence and demonstrated its stand to solve the reunification issue independently guided by this idea.

The June 15 Joint Declaration ushered in the June 15 era of reunification and provided a bright prospect of pulling down the barrier of division and of opening up a new phase of national prosperity.

Under the June 15 Joint Declaration, such humanitarian issues as the repatriation of unconverted long-term prisoners and reunions of separated families and relatives were realized and multi-faceted dialogue, contacts and cooperation gained momentum.

Amid the strong wind for reunification another north-south summit was held in October, 2007 which produced the October 4 Declaration on the improvement of north-south relations and peace and prosperity.

This paved a wide avenue to improving the north-south relations and achieving peace, prosperity and reunification of the nation under the banner of “By our nation itself”.

Witnessing the positive developments made in solving the issue of Korea’s reunification, the world hardly represses its admiration at the personality of Leader Kim Jong Il as a great man who opened up the bright prospect for Korea’s reunification, true to the President’s idea and cause of

reunification, and is more widely conducting solidarity activities supporting the Korean people's reunification cause

4. Solidarity Supporting Korea's Reunification

The international solidarity movement supporting Korea's reunification cause has been conducted in various forms and by different ways worldwide.

It gained momentum since the 1970s.

A clear proof is that in this period lots of countries and progressive figures of the world desirous of the solution of the issue of the Korean peninsula forwarded to Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il solidarity messages and letters reflecting their strong support for the reunification proposals set forth by the party and government of the DPRK.

As mentioned above, all the reunification-oriented policies and proposals made by the President fully complied with the desire of not only the Koreans but the world peace-loving people.

That's why leaders of parties and governments, social organizations and figures of all social standings of a great number of the world sympathized with this and estimated those proposals as the most fair and aboveboard one and extended full support and encouragement to the just cause of the Korean people.

As part of it, international organizations such as the

International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea was formed to support the Korean people in different countries and regions of the world in the period.

They bore different names.

As there was wide-spread international solidarity movement for supporting Korea's reunification the international liaison committee for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea was founded on June 25, 1977 with the purpose of coordinating and developing this movement in regional and world scale.

This was followed by the formation of the Nordic Cooperation Committee for Friendship and Solidarity with the Korean People on May 13, 1978, the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Committee to Support the Reunification of Korea on January 28, 1979, the African Regional Committee of Friendship and Solidarity with the Korean People on June 30, 1981, the Liaison Committee of the Pacific Region for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea on August 31, 1980, Western Europe Committee for Korea's Reunification and Peace on February 11, 1990, International Committee of Jurists for Democracy and Human Rights in South Korea on October 8, 1976.

With the formation of solidarity organizations in different parts of the world, the movement for supporting

Korea's reunification gained further momentum.

The international solidarity movement for Korea's reunification grew in content and scope occasioned by the June 15-July 27 month of international solidarity with the Korean people and October 1-31 month for supporting the proposal for founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo.

On these occasions, large-scale mass rallies and demonstrations and other forms of solidarity events were held in different parts of the world and international democracy organizations, friendship bodies, solidarity organizations, progressive social bodies, prominent figures and publication and media of various countries made public statements, appeals, resolutions, and letter of protests, expressing firm solidarity to the Koreans.

A particular mention should be made of the fact that measures were taken for supporting the Korean people's reunification cause at summit meetings of states and governments.

A typical example is resolutions on Korean issue that were adopted to comply with the reunification policy of the party and government of the DPRK at the 4th non-aligned summit in El Djazair, Algeria in September 1973, the 5th non-aligned summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August 1976, and at the 6th non-aligned summit in Havana, Cuba

in September 1979.

The solidarity movement supporting Korea was also waged in former East European socialist countries including the Soviet Union and also in non-aligned nations, developing countries, capitalist countries and even in the U.S.

This proves that the movement for supporting Korean people's reunification cause has steadily been expanded on to a high level.

Solidarity organizations in various countries and international associations expanded solidarity rallies region-wide and worldwide.

The meetings took a series of effective solidarity measures for supporting the Korean people's reunification cause which was followed by adoption of general declaration, action program, resolution and appeals, strikingly demonstrating solidarity and unity with the Koreans and world people in continents and regions and by organizations.

The international signature campaign supporting Korea's reunification also constituted an important phase in solidarity movement.

The enlarged meeting of the international liaison committee for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea in Rome, Italy in March 1979 set April 21, 1979 as

the “day of solidarity with the Korean people” and appealed to conduct international signature campaign supporting Korea’s independent and peaceful reunification until the end of the year.

The people who took part in the signature campaign numbered 1 080 million.

More than 1.6 billion or one third of the world population at that time, took part in the international signature campaign that was conducted from mid-March, 1981 to the end of March in 1982, supporting the proposal for founding the DFRK and the ten-point correction policy for the reunified state.

Under the appeal made by the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea and the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee for Supporting Peaceful Reunification of Korea, there took place a signature campaign supporting the ten-point programme for the great national unity from April to October, 1994. The participants numbered over 1.73 billion including heads of state and governments, leaders of political parties and ministers, speakers and members of parliaments, provincial governors and mayors in more than 150 countries of the world.

These numbers only clearly show the scope of the international solidarity movement for Korea’s reunification.

There are ample more examples to mention as for the

activities conducted by the world people loving justice and peace to support the Korean people.

Here are just part of international solidarity movement conducted in a wide scale in the past.

On February 1, 1997 there was an enlarged meeting of the executive committee of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea in Paris, France.

Guy Dupre, reviewed with pride the 20-year long history of solidarity movement.

He in the report said that the reasons that the tragic division persisted in Korea was first, the U.S. introduction of huge troops and military hardware to south Korea pursuant to its imperialist strategy to dominate politics, economy and military on the Korean peninsula and the rest of the Asian region and its interference in the internal affairs of the Korean people, second, the present south Korean authorities' traitorous and anti-reunification policy by which they crack down on patriotic and democratic forces standing for reunification and incite all-out stand-off with the north while depending on the U.S. quite contrary to the spirit of national independence.

The military stand-off between the north and the south attributable to Korea's division has been a potential element of the outbreak of a new war threatening the existence of

the Koreans and a constant threat to the world peace and security, he said.

I estimate this to be an accurate analysis.

President Kim Il Sung advanced historic proposals for settling the reunification issue on a fair basis at an earliest possible date taking into consideration the situation in Korea where differing social systems existed in the north and the south for over half a century.

But the U.S., directly responsible for the division of Korea, kept denying the proposal for replacing old Armistice Agreement with new peace-keeping mechanism the DPRK raised to ensure lasting peace on the peninsula and failed to respond to a proposal for concluding a tentative agreement made by the DPRK to remove armed conflict and the danger of a war from the peninsula.

Guy Dupre, glaringly revealing this fact, called upon the world progressive forces valuing peace and justice to put collective pressure on forces standing against reunification of Korea and peace as they create obstacles in the way of realizing reunification and peace, and to organize solidarity movement in close collaboration with the world progressive forces.

His report made me acknowledge his correct analysis and review of the prevailing situation on the peninsula and hardened my will to strengthen the work for supporting

Korea's reunification movement in close cooperation, not in a separate way.

The conference hall was full of enthusiastic support for Korea's reunification.

Slogans like "Long live Korea's reunification!", "Korea is one!" were heard here and there at the hall. They sounded like cheers for reunification that burst out in Korea.

Buoyed up by this strong enthusiasm, I refreshed my resolution to play a key and pace-setting role in the movement supporting Korea's reunification, chanting slogans with other attendants.

Guy Dupre's report aroused warm responses of participants in the enlarged meeting of the executive committee of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea that was held in Paris on March 21, 1998.

Voices of progressive humankind for solidarity with the Koreans for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula were heard from all international conferences supporting Korea.

It was amid this atmosphere that representatives of several international organizations, and peace, friendship and solidarity organizations of various countries and regions held an international forum demanding the immediate removal of a concrete wall for the lapse of 20 years since

the south Korean authorities built the concrete wall for the permanent division of the Korean peninsula.

During my visit to Korea I personally saw the concrete wall which the south side built in the areas along the 38th parallel. This must have been seen not only by me but by all other visitors to Korea.

The huge concrete wall which was built on purpose in order to divide one territory and the nation into two awakened me to the severity of the issue of Korea's division and the urgency of its reunification.

Even though I was a foreigner to Koreans, the moment I saw the concrete wall, I strongly felt how bitter the pain of division suffered by the Korean nation can be.

The forum adopted a letter to Leader Kim Jong Il which was followed by an opening speech by Amar Bentoumi, honorary chairman of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea and president of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and report and speeches.

Paulette Pierson, vice-chairman of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea, made a keynote speech to be followed by speeches by the representative of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, Ali Aksad, coordinator of Asian Region of the World Peace Council and secretary general of

the Bangladesh Peace Council, Anders Kristensen, secretary general of the Nordic Cooperation Committee for Friendship and Solidarity with the Korean People and Surya Lal, representative of the Asian Regional Committee to Support Korea's Reunification and chairman of the Peace Action Committee of Nepal, Manatoyama Tsutomu, representative member of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, Gennadi Berdishev, vice-chairman of Ukraine DPRK Association, O.P. Sharma, chairman of the World Peace Committee of the Asia-Pacific Lawyers Association, Hernandez, representative of the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, and Osvaldo Larriva Alvarado, vice-chairman of the Ecuadorian Committee for Supporting Korea's Independent and Peaceful Reunification.

The speakers were unanimous in strongly denouncing the south Korean authorities' act of dividing the nation that has lived in one and the same territory for 5 000 years, and even mountains and rivers that have been a contiguous line of a stratum. They underscored the need to extend more active support and solidarity to the reunification cause of the Korean nation who were determined to achieve it independently, peacefully and by the concerted efforts of the nation guided by the three charters for Korea's reunification

and the five-point policy of the great national unity.

Their heated-up discussion further livened up the atmosphere of the conference hall and eloquently showed the active support of the progressive forces for Korea's reunification.

Speeches made by figures of various countries offered important occasions that brought home the point that human desire to live in free, peaceful new world in harmony without domination, subjugation, aggression and war gets stronger on a daily basis.

This is an expression of the genuine feelings of the world peace-loving people including me.

Voices of international solidarity for Korea's reunification kept ringing out in the new century, too.

At an enlarged meeting of the executive committee of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea held in Paris on February 17, 2001, an appeal addressed to governments, political parties, organizations and international bodies was made public.

This appeal analyzed and reviewed the situation that was provided favorable for the Korean peninsula after the historic north-south summit and the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and welcomed an epochal phase that was opened in relations between the north and the south.

It is undying feats of Kim Jong Il that he formulated

reunification ideas and policies set forth by President Kim Il Sung as the three charters for Korea's reunification and provided the historic Pyongyang summit and the June 15 Joint Declaration, thereby ushering in a new era of independent reunification before the nation.

So at the conference we set 2001, the year in which a new path for the solution of the reunification issue was paved thanks to Kim Jong Il's exploits, as a "year of international solidarity for promoting independent reunification of Korea".

An appeal adopted at the meeting called for actively conducting international solidarity movement for supporting the Korean people in their efforts to implement the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

The appeal was adopted with unanimous approval of the participants.

As seen above, the activities of the international solidarity organizations for reunification and peace of Korea have gained diversity and depth throughout its historical course into the 21st century since the division of Korea.

A series of achievements were made in settling the reunification issue but it is truly regretful that reunification of Korea so much wished for by the Korean nation for more than seven decades has not yet come true.

At several international meetings sponsored by

organizations for solidarity for Korea's reunification I tried to emphasize the severity of the reunification issue and the urgency of its solution and that Korea's reunification is the cherished desire of the Korean nation and the desire common to the progressive humankind of the world, at the same time.

As one member of Pakistan cherishing this wish, and as the co-secretary general of the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee for Supporting Peaceful Reunification of Korea, I made public a number of statements and talks expressing my view on Korea's reunification.

I would like to emphasize that the international solidarity movement supporting Korea's reunification have been expanded and strengthened decade after decade.

It was held in various forms in the new century, in particular.

In the past the solidarity movement was held in a worldwide scale with the attendance of prominent figures of governments and political parties. The solidarity movement for Korea's reunification in the 21st century, however, has been held by various ways and in diverse forms, going beyond a limit and now also involves not only members of political parties and organizations but also individuals.

This can be called the characteristics of the solidarity movement for Korea's reunification.

Here are some of them.

Once I read a story about New Zealand mountaineers who traveled from Mt. Paektu, holy mountain of Korea, to Mt. Halla in the southernmost tip of Korea(on Jeju Island) by motorbike.

During my visit to Korea, I climbed Mt. Paektu, ancestral mountain of the Korean people, several times. So I am well aware of it.

Being 2,750 meters above the sea level, the mountain is the highest in Korea.

President Kim Il Sung waged anti-Japanese armed struggle for 20-odd years in areas around Mt. Paektu, defeated the Japanese imperialist aggression forces and brought about the historic cause of Korea's liberation.

Mt Paektu also houses the birthplace of Leader Kim Jong Il.

During my visit to Korea, I also went to his birthplace in the secret camp on Mt Paektu. The fact that the great man was born in a humble and simple log cabin at the foot of the mountain greatly excited foreign visitors.

Mt. Paektu enshrines noble footprints of the preceding leaders of Korea.

It is said that the contiguous line of a terrestrial stratum stretched throughout the Korean peninsula from this holy mountain.

The great Paektu range reaches Mt. Halla on Jeju Island through Mt. Taebaek and Mt. Jiri.

Traveling the great mountain range linking Mt Paektu with Mt Halla by motorbike is not a thing that can easily be done by anyone.

So I am going to detail here about Paektu-Halla motorbike team of New Zealand which supported Korea's reunification cause through motorbike journey.

The initiator of the movement was mountaineering and hitch-hiking fan of New Zealand Roger Shepherd.

He opened small non-profit making business called Hike Korea in south Korea and has operated it since 2010 for the purpose of promoting travel to great Paektu range and famous mountains of Korea.

In this course he came to know that even though it is divided into two, Korea is one and the same territory linked by one contiguous line called the great Paektu range.

So he made up his mind to travel great Paektu range from Mt Paektu to Mt Halla by motorbike.

New Zealand hiker Roger Shepherd traveled the great Paektu range linking the north and the south for three years from August 2013. He took pictures of beautiful scenes of Korea and produced a photo album showing that the Korean nation is a homogeneous nation. In the preface of the album he wrote:

"I was on vacation in Korea in early 2006 when I stumbled upon a grand mountain range stretching down the entire peninsula, and yet unknown to outsiders.

The Korean people called it the Baekdu Daegan. I was intrigued to find that there is a long trail on its crest that many Koreans strove to trek, or at least aspired to. With little information and no language skills, I set out to discover it.

What I found was a riveting mountainscape that exposed to me fascinating concepts of Korea's homogeneous culture, language and identity. Along my saunter, Korean trekkers would instruct me of the symbolic and spiritual significance of the Baekdu Daegan, and that trekking it was more than just pleasure; it was for them a pilgrimage that made them more truly Korean. It quickly captured my imagination.

In 2007, I returned to Korea and walked it again, this time producing a guidebook in English with fellow hiker and friend Andrew Douch.

The research for the guidebook reaffirmed to me what the Koreans had told me on the trail. Writing it became a phantasmagoric journey into what I term 'Korean Mountain Culture.' Its lure grew.

In 2009 I returned to Korea again where I began a six-month wander of the Baekdu Daegan's subsidiary ridges, sleeping rough; never knowing what each day would

bring, I seemed in-place. Flashes of enlightenment would occasionally hit me.

These uncanny moments combined with an endless maze of mountain ridges and new cultural finds convinced me to seek permission within Korea to actualize my fascination with its mountains. Koreans called this draw I felt in-yeon - an unexplainable fate worth pursuing.

Naturally, the idea to explore the Baekdu Daegan's entire length on a peninsula snarled by division ensued.

I decided that the fairest way to do this would be photographically. I took my idea to Pyongyang, where I discovered that the Paektu Dae San Julgi, as it is titled there, was also an icon of the national spirit. My new idea was warmly received. And so in 2011, I took my first steps on the unexplored mountains of the Baekdu Daegan in the northern half of the Korean Peninsula. I returned again in 2012, and completed my photographic expedition for the 'first edition' of this photographic study. A book that would for the first time document the entire Baekdu Daegan, North & South, featured together, a torn nation unified by mountains.

As I began putting this photo-art book together I found myself emphasizing mountain photography with minimal text; I would let the viewers decide what the images meant to them. But I do have a voice.

The past seven years have seen me travel quietly to many places on this peninsula. Koreans of all kinds encountered along the pathways have always reacted with great enthusiasm about my project, and have helped me accomplish it at many different levels. My social contacts were always memorable and educational. It was all very moving and humbling.

My fond memories of these wide travels tell me that the Koreans were wholesomely Korean regardless of what ideals they embrace.

Their language, hearts and inner mannerisms are absolutely identical facts that we sometimes let outside influences coerce us into thinking aren't so.

Although the Baekdu Daegan is on a divided peninsula, its backbone is geographically intact as one mountain-system.

As an outsider who can pass across the barriers between the two, then, this book is the fruit of my desire to share the oneness of the Baekdu Daegan with the Korean people and everyone else who currently cannot experience it.”

There was an inaugural ceremony of Motorcyclists' Group to Tour Mt. Paektu and Mt. Halla on Mt. Paektu on August 19, 2013.

Head of the group Morgan said that the aim of the tour is to travel the north and the south along the great Paektu

range by motorbike.

He added that great Paektu range stretches from the northern tip to the southern tip of the Korean peninsula symbolic of the oneness of the north and the south of Korea. Korea has 5 000 year-long history. Division of Korea is a moment in its long history but it is a history of tragedy that has to be put to an end as early as possible. I will pick up stones on top of Mt. Paektu by Lake Chon and carry them to Mt. Halla on Jeju Island and put them by stones on Mt. Halla. That will be the end of our motorcycling travel along the great Paektu range.

I will also carry stones of Mt. Paektu and Mt. Halla to New Zealand and keep praying for reunification of Korea. Reunification of Korea is a dream which all of us want to come true. It is also dream of all members of our group that Korean people of reunified country freely travel from Mt. Paektu to Mt.Halla.”

With this desire the New Zealand motorcyclist group went on their travel.

At a ceremony for releasing photo album of great Paektu range and photo exhibition held in Pyongyang after some days, Roger Shepherd, initiator of the tour said that the great Paektu range that stretched from holy Mt. Paektu to the southern tip of the Korean peninsula is not just gathering of mountains forming range but it means the

whole Korean nation. Traveling along the range stretching from the north to the south for the past three years I could enjoy the beautiful scenery of mountains of Korea and importantly, came to realize the great meaning of the range to the Korean people. The great Paektu range instills vitality to all the Koreans, constitutes the source of strength of the Korean nation and proves that mountains of Korea and its people are all one. The great Paektu range is one but it is severed by a concrete wall and even though its spirit, courses of water flowing from it and mountains stretch throughout the Korean peninsula, its people are not freely traveling it. Hoping that the photo album of great Paektu range would make a contribution to Korea's reunification, I believe that enthusiastic Korean people and its mountains would become one again."

His wishes for Korea's reunification show that it is the desire common to progressive humankind beyond one nation.

At a fare-well ceremony held in front of Panmunjom, Morgan said that Paektu-Halla tour is aimed to show before the world that Korea is one from Mt. Paektu to Mt. Halla, adding that through the tour and future activities they would actively cooperate to materialize the strategy and a blueprint for the reunification of the Korean nation and that the motorcyclists' tour is a small first step to contributing

to it.

He expressed his regret that he could not travel with Koreans from Paektu to Halla and assured that they would certainly carry stones collected on top of Mt. Paektu to Mt. Halla.

I was greatly excited to hear it.

As the co-secretary general of the Asia-Pacific regional committee for supporting Korea's reunification, I conducted lots of activities for supporting it. How good it would be if the pain of the division of Korea can be relieved by putting together stones of Mt. Paektu and Mt. Halla.

The pictures of cyclists mounting Mt. Halla at a breath seemed to be presented before my eyes.

But their activities of supporting Korea's reunification were not always a smooth sailing.

By origin, the members of the cyclists were going to pass through Panmunjom, symbol of Korea's division, and continue their travel to south Korea.

The south Korean authorities took very complicated attitude from the beginning, talking about procedures and safety and finally changed the point of passage to the Kaesong Industrial Zone.

The reason that they chose Panmunjom as a point of passage while making journey along the great Paektu range was to make even a little contribution to making all the

Koreans in the north and the south freely visit Mt. Paektu and Mt. Halla in peace.

Roger Shepard, initiator of the traveling project, greatly infuriated at the south Korean authorities' act, expressed suspicion as to the south Korean authorities' sincerity in their wish for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula. He also said that even though they face more obstacles, they would continue journey that had started on Mt. Paektu to Mt. Hall.

Finally the cyclists reached the highest point of Mt. Halla (1950 meters above the sea level) situated in the southern tip of Korea.

The cyclists put stones of Mt. Paektu by those on Mt. Halla, wishing for the reunification of Korea.

It was said that south Koreans who mounted Mt. Halla later held the stone of Mt. Paektu close to their chests and hoped that Korea will surely be reunified.

This is just part of the movement for supporting Korea's reunification that was conducted among the world progressives and it was a historic deed that showed before the world that Korea is an inseparable one territory and one nation.

What I would like to stress in this book is that people of all social standings, women in particular, are taking an active part in the international solidarity movement for

supporting Korea's reunification.

There was an inaugural ceremony of "2015 International Women's Grand March for Reunification & Peace of Korea" in front of the monument to three charters for Korea's reunification situated in Tongil Street in Pyongyang in August 2015.

The marchers included more than 30 woman activists including Nobel Peace Laureate from various countries like the U.S., Norway and Japan, as well as over 5 000 representatives of Korean women.

The ceremony began with song "Korea is one" and Co-chairwoman of 2015 International Women's Grand March for Reunification & Peace of Korea, Nobel Peace Laureate Mrs. Mairead Maguire made a speech on behalf of the participants in the march.

I would like to rewrite here her speech. It was an impressive story.

"What a glorious day to gather here together under this beautiful monument for reunification of two women holding up one Korea. It was as if the architect knew that women would lead the road to peace and reunification of Korea.

On behalf of the delegation of women here before you, please allow me to say I am truly sorry for the immense suffering you and your families endured during the Korean

War and since as a consequence of policies of war. We are here to listen to you and to tell you how much we love you and care for you and want to join in solidarity with you in your work to end the Korean War and reunite families. Thank you for trusting us to come to your country and opening your hearts to us as we begin this long walk for peace and reuniting Korea.

We are 30 women from fifteen nations around the world, many from nations that fought in the Korean War. Many are from the country whose government arbitrarily divided the Korean peninsula, saying that it would be a temporary division, yet it is now 70 years. Today, we join hands with our Korean sisters to walk for a brighter future for the Korean people.

Today, we come together in dialogue to make peace and not war. We join hands as women to women, in sister solidarity, to say that we are all part of the human race and we must learn to live together and cooperate to address the most pressing problems that afflict all of humanity.

Today, we walk as mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters who know how to keep the peace in our homes because it is we who ensure that our children are fed, clothed, and schooled and our elders cared for. As creators of life and nurturers of community, we say enough is enough. We will not allow one more weapon to be made to maim and kill

one another. We are walking to make the scourge of war a thing of the past. We are walking to end the division, which is used to further militarize Korea and our world.

We will walk across the DMZ to let the Korean people know that they are not alone in their walk to reunite Korea. We will continue walking so that soon Korean sisters may board a bus in Gwangju to see their brothers in Nampo. Sisters, let us begin our long and powerful journey to continue to make women visible as peacemakers, not just in our homes, but on the global stage, to continue to lift up our voices in our call for peace and nonviolence in Korea and in our world.”

The first woman Nobel peace prize is known as famous Austrian female writer and peace activist Berta.

There are not a few women among Nobel Peace Laureates, prize awarded to people who made contribution to the world peace.

This fact clearly proves that women accounting for more than half of the world population have had not a little impact on the development of social history directly or indirectly while acting in different fields of society such as politics, economy, military and culture.

There is not ample space here to describe them all but since a woman prime minister was produced in Sri Lanka the first of its kind in world history, woman prime ministers

appeared one after another in south Asian region, namely Pakistan and its neighbors India and Bangladesh. This clearly proves that women have an important role to play in the world political history.

It can be said that those who took part in International Women's Grand March were also among those of similar personality.

There was made public a declaration strongly appealing even women to take part in the march for Korea's reunification.(Mairead Maguire, Gbowee Leymah Roberta, Maza Liza Largoza)

The declaration read:

“2015 marks the 70th anniversary of Korea's liberation and also 70th anniversary of division of Korea by outsiders.

The world can no longer remain on-looker to the tragedy suffered by the Korean nation, the only nation in the world remaining divided due to the outcome of the Cold War.

The Demilitarized Zone is the world's most militarized and dangerous dispute-stricken area and symbol of Korea's division.

Peace and stability are an important cornerstone of human rights.

2015 also marked the 15th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace

and security which appealed to women to take an active part in peace process including prevention and settlement of disputes and guarantee of peace.

Therefore, on May 24, day of international women for peace and disarmament, we, women who gathered from the north and the south of Korea and various countries of the world, are going to stage grand march for opening up a new chapter of Korea's history which will be recorded with dialogue, reconciliation, mutual understanding, respect and peace and co-existence.

The purpose of the grand march is, first to ask for officially ending the Korean War by replacing the Armistice Agreement with the peace agreement as stipulated in Paragraph 60, Article 4 of the Korean Armistice Agreement in 1953 and second, to make Korean families get reunited as they suffer tragic division against their will and third, to defuse military tension on the Korean peninsula and fourth, to appeal to the international community to stop sanctions doing harm to the innocent civilians and fifth, to denounce the violence committed against women and girls during the war and to bring justice to "comfort women", survivors of the sexual slavery during the second Korean War, and sixth, to divert funds squandered on arms race to promotion of wellbeing of people and to environmental protection and seventh, to enhance guiding role of women in ensuring

peace in Korea and several regions of the world and eight, to build up the world public opinion for support for reconciliation and reunification of Korea which constitutes a cornerstone in ensuring world peace.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we solemnly declare that we, reflecting the wishes of the Korean people and the world conscientious people to make efforts for lasting peace and security in Korea and the rest of the world and for peaceful reconciliation and reunification of the Korean peninsula. Acknowledging the rights of the Korean women to decide the future of peaceful Korea, we will continue the international women's grand march for peace and reunification of Korea hand in hand with women of all social standings, working women in particular, until this goal is attained.”

After the declaration was read out, the International Women's Grand March for Korea's reunification and peace began.

The participants began their march toward Panmunjom, symbol of the division of Korea, fluttering Korean placards reading “Let us reunify country independently and peacefully!”, “Let us build new independent, peaceful and friendly world!”, “Let us strengthen solidarity with the peace-loving forces of the world “ as well as English placards reading “Woman march for reunion of separated

families”, “Woman march for peace agreement in Korea”, “Korea’s peace for world peace”, “Let’s end 70-year war against Korean people”, “Woman march to end Korean War”, “We demand women’s position in ensuring world peace”.

The march was attended by more than 5 000 Korean women.

Mairead Maguire, founder of Peace People and Nobel Peace Laureate, was also greatly excited.

She said that what she feels keeping steps with the Korean women was that the Korean people sincerely hope for the country’s reunification and that she would continue to work for the reunification of Korea and lasting peace of the world.

Peter Wilson, secretary general of New Zealand-DPRK Friendship Society, said that

In order to achieve the peaceful reunification of Korea, the US army should be pulled out from South Korea.

... As we can know, Korean Peninsula was blocked and divided into two by some US military policy makers in a few minutes.

I think, it is very important for US to pullout the army from South Korea and replace the armistice agreement with a peace agreement.

As I remember, several years ago, Korea has already

mentioned that if US pullout the army from South Korea and replace the armistice agreement with a peace agreement, and if they wouldn't threaten and blackmail with nuclear weapons, Korea would improve the diplomatic relations with US and the denuclearization of Korean Peninsula could be achieved.

The denuclearization of Korean Peninsula is the behest of the President Kim Il Sung and it is the inevitable choice for North Korea to develop the nuclear deterrent power in order to safeguard their country from threatening of US. But I am sure that if US replace the armistice agreement with a peace agreement and the Korean Peninsula is declared as the denuclearized area, the denuclearization of Korean Peninsula will be very possible....

So I think, the world opinion for the peaceful reunification of Korea should be built up and the world society should make the separation history of Korea to be lasted no more. ...

The marchers' group arrived at Panmunjom via Kaesong. There they were to go over to the area of south Korea via the Kaesong Industrial Zone.

Korean women bid warm farewell to the 30 foreign representatives.

Looking at this, Peter Wilson expressed his inward feelings like this:

... I can't know why US and the persons, who claim themselves as the president of the responsible countries for the Korean division, pay no attention to the heart-hurt reality of Korea, about which even our foreigners are feeling from our heart, and feel no responsibility for its separation during those more than 70 years.

I think, the division history of Korea should be lasted no more and not only the Korean people but also the whole world should upsurge requiring the pullout of US army from South Korea. ...

As he said, the issue of Korea's reunification is not just an issue that require struggle of the Korean people.

For over seven decades of national division peace and security have never settled on Korea due to the U.S. illegal presence in south Korea and this rendered the situation in the region including the peninsula extremely tense.

That's why the issue of Korea's reunification, the issue of ensuring lasting peace on the Korean peninsula becomes a vital issue for the peace-loving people the world over.

In fact, it is the U.S. which is entirely responsible for the constant tension on the Korean peninsula. In other words, the U.S. is the root cause which turned the peninsula into the world's worst hotspot, and the main obstacle in the way of ensuring peace and security is the U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK.

As was mentioned earlier, the DPRK set forth proposal for replacing the old Armistice Agreement with the peace mechanism in order to remove the danger of a war from the peninsula and ensure durable peace. It has repeatedly demanded the U.S. respond to it.

The proposal made by the DPRK side includes rational ways for settling the hostile relations between the DPRK and the U.S.

But the U.S. has persistently shunned the proposal made by the north.

The reason that the U.S. has opposed to the DPRK's fair and aboveboard peace proposal was because that is in contradiction with its aggression-oriented external policy.

The pivot to Asia policy pursued by the U.S. is a core and pillar of its world domination strategy in the 21st century.

The U.S. gives top priority to Northeast Asia, the Korean peninsula in particular, which is at very important vantage point from geographical and strategic points of view. It is its calculation that without holding control of whole of Korea, it would not be able to form an encircling military network to the Asian continent.

The U.S. has made desperate efforts to keep constant war atmosphere in the region as it has never wished for détente on the peninsula.

Out of its purpose to keep the situation tense on the peninsula, the U.S. has manipulated hideous cases against the north. That was mentioned above.

In year 2016, too, the U.S. waged madcap joint military exercises Key Resolve, Foal Eagle and Ulji Freedom Guardian for aggression in collusion with the south Korean authorities.

The reason that the U.S. is pressing for the hostile policy toward the DPRK is because north Korea which has ranked itself among the nuclear weapons state is dashing its ambition for world domination.

The Obama administration which called for a “world without nuclear weapons” has persistently pursued “strategic patience” strategy as the key point of its DPRK policy only to provoke laughter of the public inside and outside Korea.

The “strategic patience” strategy means that it would deny dialogue with north Korea until this country shows a sign of change, i.e. “dismantlement of nuclear weapons first” or it would wait with “patience” while putting pressure and sanctions.

So far, the U.S. pressed for all sorts of stifling policy against the DPRK only to compel it to bolster nuclear deterrence for self-defence and consolidate its position as a nuclear weapons state.

The Obama administration manipulated the UN Security Council to deprive Korea of its sovereign rights including the right to launch satellite for peaceful purposes, pushing the situation to the extremes. Under such situation the DPRK set forth the new line on simultaneous development of economic construction and the building of a nuclear force and further bolstered its nuclear deterrence.

It was against this backdrop that on Jan. 6, 2016 the DPRK succeeded in H-bomb test and then launched earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong-4 in its wake, demonstrating its tremendous military muscle before the U.S. and other big powers.

A conclusion that can be drawn from this is that unless the U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK is withdrawn, no issue can be settled between the DPRK and the U.S., to say nothing of the issue of Korea's reunification.

The U.S. which compelled the DPRK to nuclear weaponization, massively brought nuclear strategic assets like nuclear strategic bomber, nuclear submarine and nuclear carrier into the Korean peninsula, keeping the regional situation tense. Under such situation how can the DPRK give up its war deterrence.

Now it can be said that two nuclear weapons states stand in confrontation on the Korean peninsula.

It is a unanimous assessment of the international

community that as long as there is no peace-keeping mechanism built on the peninsula, even the slightest accident may lead to an all-out war and a nuclear war.

The U.S. deep-seated hostile policy toward the DPRK is utterly anachronistic as it divided Korea by the 38th parallel and pushed the situation on the peninsula to such a state.

To look back on history, the U.S. experienced a war with Korea far back in the 50s of the last century and posed decades of nuclear threat and blackmail and imposed economic sanctions unprecedented in its depth, width and duration. But every time it sustained only defeat and failure.

As already mentioned, the U.S. provoked the 1950-1953 Korean War and hurled 2 million-strong troops including troops of the U.S., 15 satellite countries, south Korean army and even remnants of the Imperial Japanese Army and huge modern combat and technical means and munitions but it could not but suffer human and material losses nearly 2.3 times as what was suffered by it during the four-year Pacific War and sign the Armistice Agreement little short of a surrender document.

In the 60s and 70s in the 20th century it also provoked all sorts of incidents for the purpose of rendering the situation on the peninsula tense only to suffer defeat and shame.

The case has been same with the DPRK-U.S. nuclear stand-off that continued into the 21st century in the wake

of that in the 1990s.

Despite the U.S.-manipulated ceaseless military threat and economic sanctions and the present situation of the peninsula getting tense day by day the DPRK consolidated its position as a powerful nuclear weapons state which is possessed of the ability of manufacturing and launching satellite and making H-bomb and has made miraculous achievements drawing the attention of the international community on a daily basis.

The situation clearly proves that the U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK is, indeed, an anachronistic one.

The U.S. has to acknowledge this stark reality and lend an ear to the voice of the international community and the world conscientious people demanding the switchover in its DPRK policy and replacement of the Armistice Agreement with the peace treaty.

Only then will it be possible to peacefully settle the issue of Korea's reunification and furthermore, ensure peace and security in the world.

5. Reunification of Korea, the Cherished Desire of the World

Now there is bright prospect of achieving Korea's reunification.

That is because HE Kim Jong Un who is carrying forward the intentions of President Kim Il Sung and Leader Kim Jong Il is leading the Korean nation along the road of reunification, I think.

On Jan. 1, 2012, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un made his first New Year Address.

This gave great encouragement to not only Koreans but the solidarity organizations in various countries active for supporting Korea's reunification.

As he said in his New Year Address, Korea's reunification is the most urgent task facing the Korean nation which brooks no further delay, and it is also the lifetime desire of the preceding leaders.

The part of the New Year Address dealing with Korea's reunification was just as same as the idea pursued by the preceding leaders.

His New Year Address also made me understand his fixed determination to reunify the country at any cost and his strong pluck and confidence to build a powerful country,

reunified and prosperous, by the concerted efforts of the nation no matter what tempest and difficulties may lie in the way.

This greatly excited me and hardened my belief that he is another lodestar of Korea's reunification.

This also helped me picture the bright morning of independent reunification what will dawn in Korea as long as it is led by Kim Jong Un.

Kim Jong Un made historic New Year Addresses in the years that followed where he advanced wise proposals for weathering the difficulties lying in the way of Korea's reunification and aroused whole Korean nation into materializing them.

So great was positive reaction of the international community to it.

“New Year Address of HE Kim Jong Un is an immortal programe which brightly indicated the orientation and ways of solving Korea's reunification issue in the interests common to the nation irrespective of differing ideology and social system,” “Proposals for improvement of the north-south relations and Korea's reunification set forth by the respected Marshal HE Kim Jong Un is the most realistic one”, etc.

This shows that the proposal for Korea's reunification set forth by Kim Jong Un in the historic New Year Addresses

aroused sympathy of the world progressive people.

The 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea that was held in May, 2016 was recorded as a congress to be specially recorded in the history of the movement for Korea's reunification.

In his report to the Congress Kim Jong Un said:

“National independence, great national unity, peace and a federal system—this is the policy our Party is following in its struggle to pave the way for the country's reunification by implementing the three charters for national reunification.”

The proposal for Korea's reunification-national independence, great national unity and a federal system—is the most just reunification proposal that would make it possible to realize independent reunification of Korea. This is also the idea that runs through all the reunification programs advanced by the President in the past.

This has been universally recognized with its validity fully proven.

In the course of conducting solidarity activities for Korea's reunification for a long time, I experienced in practice how correctly the three charters set forth by Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il indicate the orientation of the movement of Korea's reunification and the world response to them. I can say with confidence that the policy on national independence, great national unity, ensuring peace and a

federal system set forth by Kim Jong Un is indeed, the only way of settling the issue of Korea's reunification at present.

Let's have a look at the issue of national independence, key spirit of the three charters.

Korea's division that started along with Korea's liberation from the Japanese colonial rule in September 1945, was imposed at the hands of outsiders and has continued by them.

It is a lesson taught by seven decades of Korea's division that dependence on outsiders will not help solve the issue of Korea's reunification.

That's why Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il consistently urged the need to reunify Korea independently free from interference by foreign forces.

Korean friends I used to meet whenever I visit Pyongyang repeatedly told me that national independence is the way of Korea's reunification and national prosperity while dependence on outsiders will lead to permanent division and ruin of the nation.

This means that holding aloft the banner of national independence is a core in settling the national issue, and it is a lifeline of the movement of Korea's reunification.

This is a clear proof that Kim Jong Un's idea on national independence is the reunification proposal most correctly reflecting the subjective and objective situation

on the Korean peninsula.

Let's have another look at the issue of ensuring peace on Korean peninsula.

The Korean peninsula is the world's worst hotspot and a hotbed of a nuclear war.

It is the peninsula where lots of war means and conventional forces stand in confrontation.

The U.S., chief culprit of Korea's division in particular, deployed more nuclear weapons than any other region of the world, staging nuclear war exercises against the DPRK almost every day.

The U.S.-south Korea joint nuclear war drill that began with Focus Retina in 1969 has been conducted ceaselessly every year for over 40 years under various codenames such as Freedom Bolt, Team Spirit, RSOI, Key Resolve, Foal Eagle and Ulji Freedom Guardian.

That's why the Korean peninsula has constantly been beset with danger of war, and hideous incident that can lead to a war frequently occur in the areas along the 38th parallel on the Korean peninsula.

This is well known to the broad world public that this is the stark reality on the Korean peninsula.

Therefore, if war is not prevented and peace is not defended on the Korean peninsula, anyone can fall victim and the existence of the nation will be endangered.

Peace and security on the Korean peninsula- this is a vital issue related to the destiny of the Korean nation, a prerequisite to Korea's reunification and it is also the intention of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

So far I have made historic analysis and assessment from various angles of the issue of Korea's reunification and the great reunification programs for solving the issue.

I would like to emphasize that Korea's reunification guarantees lasting peace and security in the region, and furthermore, world peace and that it is the desire of not only the Korean nation but the world.

In order to realize this desire, the world progressive mankind should courageously turn out in the solidarity activities for supporting and encouraging the cause of Korea's reunification in the future, too, as was in the past and as is today. This is the words I would like to leave to readers, concluding this book.

Afterword

Recently, a doctor of the Georgetown University of the U.S. said as follows:

... In this era, Korea is the only military entity who can challenge the US most stubbornly as well as the most threatening being who can make a breach through the new-world international order lead by US.

The reason that I recall his words here is because Korea is no longer Korea yesterday when it used to use rifles to stand against the U.S. A bomb, just as Koreans now say.

The DPRK today has now possessed of capabilities of mounting a precision strike with nuclear weapons at the aggressors and their bases wherever they might be in the world, guided by the line of simultaneous development of economic construction and the building of a nuclear force.

Now it has become a fait accompli that a spark fly of a war on the peninsula may immediately throw also the U.S. into the nuclear holocaust.

In the past it was only the U.S. which had the right to mount a preemptive nuclear attack. But now both the DPRK and the U.S. are possessed of this capability. This means that it is not only the U.S. that can threaten the other side with a nuclear stick.

That's why it is a high time that the U.S. changed its

anachronistic hostile policy toward the DPRK.

Only then, will it be possible to ensure lasting peace and security on the Korean peninsula and the region, to say nothing of realizing Korea's reunification.

This is the unanimous voice of the world peace-loving people.

Despite manifold difficulties and twists and turns, nothing can check the advance of the Korean people toward reunification.

As long as there is reunification program provided by Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and as the DPRK is led by illustrious iron-willed commander Kim Jong Un possessed of great intention of realizing the program and as it is possessed of powerful military capabilities, the world will clearly see how the DPRK brings about reunification of Korea.

The day will surely come on the Korean peninsula when the north and the south get reunified just like when bright morning comes, the sunlight sheds its light all over the world.

It is the goal of my remaining life to devote even a little of my ability to this end.













